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A Word For Candor

Allen W. Dulles' assurance, in a Chicago address, that the presidential commission's report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy will be "candid" and comprehensive is a welcome sequel to an earlier statement by Chief Justice Earl Warren that this generation may never be told some of the findings.

Mr. Dulles is a member of the commission, which is headed by Chief Justice Warren. His statement before the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations suggests that the earlier Warren statement was merely cautionary rather than predictive. In any event, it was ill-advised and should be recalled. The chief justice, himself, should do the recalling, making it clear that, whatever interpretations may have been placed on his earlier statement, it did not mean that the presidential commission intended to be less than candid with the American people and the rest of the world.

As long as the Warren statement is allowed to stand, it will take more than a Dulles disclaimer of the commission's report to erase the doubt in the public mind about the circumstances leading to the murder of Mr. Kennedy and the associations of his slayer. Many of the wild rumors will live on and some may even find their way to wide acceptance. We can think of no possible revelation of the commission's investigation that would be so devastating to the world's peace and peace of mind as would be the suspicions that would linger in the wake of an inconclusive, incomplete report.

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